

January 5, 2000

U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Planning, Management and Budget
1849 C. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
Attn. Ed Thompson

Dear Sir: TESTIMONY: Re: Cause for reconciliation for Native Hawaiians

- Because of the illegal overthrow of our Hawaiian Nation and displacement of Native Hawaiians
- Because of the occupation of ceded and Government Land without just compensation
- Because of the years of taxation without representation
- Because of the mismanagement of Native Hawaiian Trust Land

In the last seven years I have witnessed, up close and painfully, how Native Hawaiian programs have been underfunded, sidetracked and generally mismanaged to the point of chronic ineffectiveness. My participation in Hui Kako'o 'Aina Ho'opulapula, representing 20,000 Native Hawaiians on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands waitlists, gives me insight into how Government can fail people.

It makes sense, then, that the main step toward meaningful reconciliation be to re-direct monies for Native Hawaiian programs out of government agencies and into the Ali'i Trusts.

The Ali'i Trusts are in place and functioning, serving specific community needs and could be repositories for implementing community programs.

My first recommendation is that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Trust be re-focused through new Native Hawaiian community authorities to direct funds where and as needed. With the passage and implementation of S225 such funds can be the life force of new community development.

In addition, the following trusts, in place but often underfunded, should benefit from reconciliation:

- The Kamehameha Schools could provide head-start programs for tots with free education for Hawaiians through the University level.
- Queen Emma and Kapiolani Trusts: Quality health care for Native Hawaiians to alleviate The worst obesity, drug abuse, cancer, and heart incidence in the nation.
- Lunalilo Trust: Provide care for our elders who have quietly suffered many indignities for over 100 years and who have never benefited from their trust lands or the free hospital care promised in the charter of the Queens Health System.

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- Liliuokalani Trust: For the care of orphans. Present lifestyles require more assistance as the family unit takes on a different form: single parent, no-parent, many parents, children raised by grandparents, friends or family members, adopted parents - all because of displacement.

In this scheme of reconciliation two other entities should be recipients of funding.

- Alu Like is a non-profit agency formed to develop and train native Hawaiians in business. This agency could be the mechanism for developing a Native Hawaiian Resource Economic Development Trust to include the Native Hawaiian Bank that helps keep our monies invested in our island home. The revitalization of a cultural economy could boost the work force of Hawaiians.

- Lastly, with the demise of our Hawaiian Nation, funding disappeared for community service organizations whose focus is the perpetuation and care of things Hawaiian. The Order of Kamehameha, Kaahumanu Society, Hale O Na Lii and others need funding to carry out their sovereign identity in this day. A more active role for these societies as custodian of our artifacts and archives will help determine the best way to preserve and share our history.

I think the best way to sum up a discussion of reconciliation is to weigh the foregoing "package" against two other alternatives: (1) one-time financial reparations or (2) tax exemption in perpetuity for each Native Hawaiian. Assuming the three approaches are of roughly equal dollar size, I choose the path that requires all the effort and involvement of the Hawaiian community because that's half the battle toward the "healing."

Respectfully submitted,


Gordean L. Bailey

Present Board Member, Hui Kako'o 'Aina Ho'opulapula, Maui

Present member of Agricultural Task Force, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Past Board Member, Bailey House Museum, Maui

Participant in strategic planning for moku of Kahikinui, Maui

Farmer, Kula, Maui for 30 years

Hula teacher, BE, University of Hawaii